

Minutes PCE Europe Meeting – 7th and 8th May 2011 in Bordeaux

Present: Willi Roes (Chair), Claire Higgon, Angélique Timmerman, Danae Maranakis, Sylvia Rasch-Owald, Andrea Uphoff (Minutes)

The board noted that it cannot possibly deal with all the tasks that are arising and that in future it will have to approach members to form small working parties to take these on.

EAP

Sylvia gave a summary of the important points reported by Heino Mönnich, PCE Europe's new representative for EAP, after the latest EAP board meeting in Vienna at which approx. 60 persons were present and where elections took place. EAP meets 2 x per year, one meeting takes place in Vienna and one in another European city. The main focus of the meeting was the establishment of criteria for organisational and individual membership. PCE Europe is a EWAO and has accrediting powers specifically for person-centred organisations and individuals so will expect to play its part in development of the criteria for membership. There has been no progress on the EU Platform because there are other organisations who believe they are the regulating bodies for Europe, for e.g. psychologists/psychiatrists.

An EAP Working Group has been formed to establish a permanent psychotherapy research committee. EAP have also established an Ethical Coordination Committee which is currently discussing how it can support EAP members more efficiently.

The Training Accreditation Committee (TAC) requires that people applying for and wishing to retain the ECP complete 50 hours CPD per annum or 250 hours over 5 years the administration of which must fall to NAO's.

A further point of importance is the possible establishment of equivalence between the PCE Certificate and the ECP Certificate. The GwG has received an email from one of its members asking how they might apply for an ECP Certificate. Heino is looking into this and working to make it a precedent case.

The next meetings: October 14/15th 2011 in Rome. February 17/18th 2012 Vienna.

The Mental Health conference in Lisbon 2010 could not be attended by our representative due to lack of time and other commitments. It was agreed that in future if Heino cannot attend any meeting he will inform Sylvia Rasch-Owald. If she also cannot attend she will inform the board and the board will see if any of them can go. However, Heino is now taking a sabbatical from his work and so expects to have more time to focus on building relationships within EAP.

EAC

This organisation is still in the early stages of development despite having been established for a number of years. The next meeting in Greece (date) will be an important one as EAC are reviewing their statutes to take forward the work that they have been discussing and exploring over the last couple of years. The revised statutes will be presented to the next EAC AGM in November 2011. The main issues are:

- How to award the European certificate of counselling to individuals in countries that have no National Association (NA) for Counselling.
- How to include European Wide Accrediting Organisations and extend powers to them to award the European certificate of Counsellor Accreditation.

The EAC Training Standards Committee has reformed and is working on several projects:

- Reviewing and updating the training standards for the European counsellor (in conjunction with Webster University)
- Developing standards for Counselling in the workplace & consultation
- Developing protocols for accrediting training courses in countries where there is no NA.

As the main topic is the criteria for the award of European accreditation for Counsellors, it was seen as very important that PCE Europe collaborate with EAC. Counselling is a broad and complicated arena within Europe and it was felt that we have experience to offer within an EAC working party. It was questioned whether EAC have an overview yet of regulation and the legal position and roles and standards in training. PCA has important things to say about counselling and Angelique Timmerman felt that we could develop the same standards and regulations for the PCE Certificate thereby making our PCE Certificate more substantial for recognition. After the PCE Europe board has developed criteria for counselling and various fields of applied counselling, we could recruit a small committee at GA 2012 to work on this further. Angelique suggested utilising Pete Sanders books on counselling as a reference for ways of licensing, standards etc.

Danae Marinakis will be attending the meeting and will be listening to check for ways in which we can co-operate with EAC in following ways:

- 1) Is the PCA represented on the EAC applications committee? If not they are underrepresented, which makes the 3rd option even more important to attain.
- 2) PCE Europe takes the counselling section very seriously and is forming a working party to work on the issues of standards for regulation and certification.
- 3) PCE Europe would be happy to send an individual to work with their committee.

Danae will also take the initiative in making connections with other delegates that may advise their organisations to become candidates for application in PCE Europe. In future, if Danae cannot attend a

meeting PCE Europe has an important liaison person with Agathi Lakioti from GAC who will update Danae on any developments.

PCE as resource for support and guidance during regulation procedures

Claire Higgon presented the results of the questionnaire she and Cécile Joris developed for mapping the regulation of psychotherapy, counselling and psychology for PCE Europe (and PCE World) and gave the board an overview of the complexities and broadness of the arena across Europe.

The question arose as to how PCE Europe can support and offer guidance for person-centred counsellors and psychotherapists within Europe, particularly regarding regulation? Claire would like to develop a resource for helping countries within Europe with their regulation of person-centred psychotherapy as an accepted modality of psychotherapy within Europe. PCE Europe is tapped into resources whose knowledge could be useful in helping unregulated nations address their issues in the regulation procedures and avoid making mistakes already made by some organisations and which resulted in person-centred modality not being recognised. Sonja Kinigsnader from Austria may be helpful with this and Claire will make individual contact with her and other people who may be helpful. It was also thought that PCE Europe could put organisations in touch with each other for this purpose.

Promotion of PCE Europe

Communication via our network to their individual members remains difficult and many individuals have no relationship to PCE Europe or understanding of the importance of our remit. The board discussed representation of PCE Europe at various conferences to bring the organisation to people's attention without constantly resorting to electronic communications which can be overwhelming and ignored. The significance of our work is not generally apparent to individuals or how it will affect their future in Europe. The survey currently in hand (see below) looks a promising way to do this because it delivers information about practical application and shows that individual is being consulted. There may be additional difficulties in asking people to be proactive. We asked ourselves what kind of information might be useful to individuals when arguing the person-centred corner; statistics, for example. We agreed to make some kind of presentation at PCE 2012 and request specifically that every organisation represented send a delegate. There were questions as to how the newly developed questionnaire will be utilised and in which time frame in order to support our presentation at the conference workshop.

Promotion of the PCE Certificate

There was a discussion on how to promote the certificate. Some countries, like Holland, do not need the certificate in order to work or be recognised and their work is financially viable and legally recognised. The German organisation, GwG, did an exceptional job of marketing the certificate and the evidence is in the number of certificates issued to German members. The points to emphasise in promoting the certificate are the dissemination of the PCA and the presence and use of the directory in promoting mobility for therapists and clients alike. A Google search for person-centred therapists brings up the PCE

Europe website immediately. There was a suggestion that the search for a therapist be prioritised by an item on the home page and Willi Roes agreed to action this. Also, the language spoken should become a criterion for the website directory. The directory is also useful for making personal connections across borders and creating networks that may too produce work for our registrants.

Website

We know that many people need work. We need to emphasise the use of the website for connecting people personally and within specialist fields of counselling i.e. working in prison, with young people etc.

A few suggestions were made regarding the general organisation of the website and a more rational separation is to be made between information and the practicalities of application. We also agreed to give prominence to PCE Europe in the logo. Willi will consult with our website advisor.

Facebook

There was a suggestion made to put PCE Europe on Facebook as a more informal way for people to communicate and with a link to the website. As an experiment Danae and Willi began creating the Facebook page with the board as administrators :

<http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100002427451681>

Questionnaire: The PCA in Europe

It was felt that we could not expect useful answers if we only send out an English questionnaire. It became apparent that the matter of translation is problematic in terms of dissemination and the analysis of answers. A number of revisions were suggested, as well as ideas given regarding analysis and time frame. How to reach a wide spread of people but be able to deal with a high number of responses? It was suggested that we use only a proportional analysis instead but a question then arose about the individuals who would be targeted.

It was decided that the organisations delegate representatives will be requested to disseminate the questionnaires to a minimum of 5, maximum of 10, individual members and stipulate a representative spread of gender, age, experience etc. Responsibility for any translation will be that of the organisation, but PCE Europe will require the responses in English. It was decided to detail the template questionnaire with country codes to indicate where the responses have come from. If necessary the board may recruit someone to analyse the data collected.

Danae began developing the coding for the questionnaire and creating separate files. Angélique began to develop a cover letter.

Timetable for PCE Europe GA 2012

First announcement of topics for the GA will go out to members in December 2011 with the final announcement going out in March 2012. Willi to check the dates/times of the beginning of the conference PCE 2012 before PCE Europe stipulates the beginning of our GA.

Member countries

The board knows of a number of countries which we would like to encourage to become members of PCE Europe; Ireland, Spain, Italy, Scandinavian countries, Turkey, Poland, Balkan countries. We agreed to try to make some personal contacts with national organisations. It was agreed that Willi will talk to Magda Draskoczy about her past results with some of these contacts and also WAPCEPC to find out who is a member there but not with PCE Europe. Andrea is to contact a person in Ireland. Danae to ask Polly lossifides in Greece about her contacts around Europe. This will also become a topic for GA 2012.

Financial Report

Finances were presented. There were no questions arising from the accounts. Andrea inducted Claire into the financial procedures for when she takes over as treasurer at GA 2012.

Non-member countries and Sponsorship

There was a discussion about how to support financially challenged organisations. There was a suggestion of one organisation twinning another but also the possibility for an organisation to donate to a fund that would be distributed by the board upon application or as incentive to join. The latter was held to be more egalitarian.

WAPCEPC Editorship

Angelique thought she would apply for this.

Next Skype Meeting Dates: 15th June, 13th July, 14th September, 12th October, 9th November, 7th December 2011